

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method for controlling access to a product, the method comprising:
 - (a) receiving at a computer a license string that controls access to the product, the license string being generated using a cryptographic process by encoding data that includes date information corresponding to at least one of:
 - a date of creation of the product;
 - ~~a version of the product;~~
 - a date of a request for the product; and
 - a date of generation of the license string;
 - (b) verifying the license string including by:
 - decoding the license string to identify the information; and
 - determining that the date information is within a valid range; and
 - (c) allowing access to the product based on verifying the license string; wherein the data encoded to generate the license string comprises a license data and a validation data and verifying the license string further includes (i) decoding the license string to obtain the license data and the validation data, (ii) computing a generated validation data based at least in part on at least a portion of the decoded license data, and (iii) comparing the decoded validation data with the generated validation data.
2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising providing a dialog box, and wherein receiving the license string comprises receiving the license string via the dialog box.
3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising providing an entry field, and wherein receiving the license string comprises receiving the license string via the entry field.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the cryptographic process generates the license string by encoding information using block ciphers.
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the cryptographic process generates the license string by encoding the information as a character text string.
7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the cryptographic process generates the license string by encoding the information as an upper case alphanumeric string excluding capital O, capital I, and numbers 0 and 1.
8. (Cancelled)
9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the license string includes a first checksum, and verifying the license string comprises generating a second checksum based on the information and comparing the second checksum with the first checksum.
10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the license string controls access to a single facility.
11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the license string controls access to a plurality of facilities.
12. (Cancelled)
13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein access to the product is allowed for only a predetermined period of time in the absence of verifying the license string.
14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13 wherein allowing access to the product comprises allowing access to the product beyond the predetermined period of time.

15 – 57 (Cancelled)